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HOMESTEAD MEADOWS

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CATALOGING PREP.

A Hike into History

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK

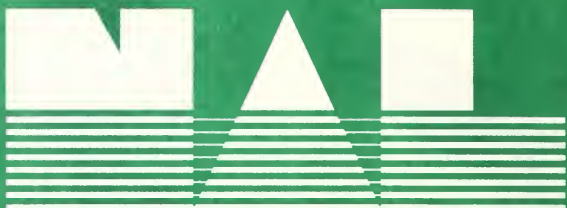
ESTES PARK

HOMESTEAD MEADOWS LEGEND

1. BROWN HOMESTEAD
2. GRIFFITH HOMESTEAD
3. IRVIN HOMESTEAD
4. WALKER HOMESTEAD
5. HILL HOMESTEAD
6. ENGERT HOMESTEAD
7. BOREN HOMESTEAD
8. LAYCOOK HOMESTEAD
9. SAWMILL
10. LION GULCH TRAIL

TRAIL HEAD

United States
Department of
Agriculture



National Agricultural Library

WELCOME TO HOMESTEAD MEADOWS







With a sense of curiosity, a keen eye, and a free imagination, you can journey through time on a network of fifteen miles of easy to moderate trails in the Homestead Meadows National Historic District.

The Lion Gulch Trailhead is located on Highway 36, 13 miles west of Lyons and 7 miles east of Estes Park. The trail begins at 7,360 ft. and climbs to 8,400 ft in 2.75 miles. Once you reach the top of this trail, the terrain opens into a series of meadows and the trails are fairly flat.

There are eight homesteads to explore: four in the southern end of the valley, two at the top of the trail, and two to the north. It is possible to visit all eight homesteads on foot in a day, but be prepared for a full day; often visitors select a few homestead sites to see, and return another time to see the others.

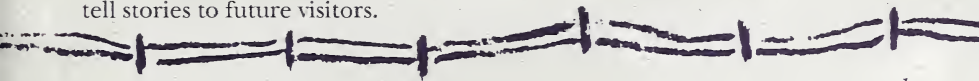
Homesteaders first settled these meadows in the late 1800s. Many of the trails follow original wagon roads. Discover cabins, barns, and outbuildings still standing. Look for hidden artifacts and wonder about evidence of pioneer life which has faded into the landscape, hiding untold stories of years gone by.

While you explore, please remember:

-  Cultural resources are yours to enjoy and protect. Removal of or damage to artifacts is unlawful;
-  Historic artifacts should be left in place for others to see;
-  Any disturbance such as climbing on or camping in these fragile structures will speed their natural decay
-  This area is open to hunting during legal seasons.

Hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders are welcome to use this trail system, providing that the rules and regulations for enjoying national forests are followed. No motorized vehicles are permitted. If you are planning to stay overnight in Homestead Meadows, camp well away from structures, out of sight from trails and pack out everything you pack in. Use campstoves instead of campfires whenever possible, and dig cat holes well away from the Homesteads to bury human waste.

On October 4, 1990, Homestead Meadows was nominated by the USDA Forest Service to the National Register of Historic Places. The area qualifies for its "potential to yield important information that will increase our understanding of ranching on the Front Range, during the last period of homesteading in north central Colorado." The natural processes of aging and deterioration take place all the time. No support or stabilization has been added to any of the structures, so please refrain from walking in and be careful when walking around the buildings. The fewer disturbances to these structures, the longer they will survive to tell stories to future visitors.



SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE

Free land! Homestead in the Rockies! Opportunity, adventure and a dream-come true for those who dared. The Homestead Act of 1862 encouraged western expansion by opening America's public lands to agricultural settlement. Under the Homestead Act, more than 1 million families received title to over 248 million acres of public land across the western states.

Qualifying for a homestead was simple. A land seeker had to be a United States citizen or express intention of becoming one, be older than 21 years of age or the head of household, and own fewer than 160 acres of land. Acquiring title to the land (Certificate of Patent), however, took determination and hard work. A person had to "prove up" the land, meaning that a house must be built within five years, the land must be occupied at least six months of each year, evidence of making an income related to the property had to be shown, and a portion of the land was to be cultivated. The usual homestead contained 160 acres. After a six-month period, the land could be purchased for \$1.25 per acre. If, on the other hand, the homestead was managed for five years, the title would only cost a nominal filing fee of \$15.00.



Though land was virtually free, families struggled to make a living. Most of the fertile soil in better agricultural areas already fell under private ownership. The available public land was often remotely located and homesteaders typically lacked even the most basic skills in farming. As a result, many dreams went unfulfilled. The majority of homesteaders failed the five-year residency requirement to gain full title to the property. Homesteading programs ended in 1976 in all states except Alaska, which ended its program in 1986.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

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To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greetings;

CERTIFICATE

No. 12447

Whereas William H. Laycock of Larimer
County Coloradohas deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office
at Denver Colorado
whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said
William H. Laycockaccording to the provisions of the
Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public
Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the South West of the North
East quarter and the North West of the South
East quarter of Section twenty one in Township
four North of Range seventy two West of the
Sixth Principal Meridian in Colorado, containing one
hundred and sixty acres,according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor
General, which said Tract has been purchased by the said William H. Laycock,Now know ye, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the
several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant
unto the said William H. Laycockand to his heirs, the said Tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together
with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatever nature, thereto belonging, unto the said
William H. Laycockand to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any
vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs
used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions
of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the
same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law. And there is reserved from the
lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.In testimony whereof J. Benjamin Harrison
President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and
the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the twenty sixth
day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand
eight hundred and ninety one, and of the Independence of the
United States the one hundred and fiftieth

[L.S.]

By the President: Benjamin Harrison
Allen Masfaland Secy.
J. M. Townsend, Recorder of the General Land Office.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

In the late 1880s homesteaders came to a valley in Colorado's Front Range, known today as Homestead Meadows. This area, situated eight miles southeast of Estes Park, remained pristine long after surrounding areas had been explored and settled. Since more accessible areas were still teeming with wildlife, and creeks in Homestead Meadows were too small to attract beavers, hunters and fur trappers passed by this idyllic spot. In time, however, the abundant game, rich pasture, plentiful springwater, and good timber lured hardy people into these remote and unspoiled meadows.

The settling of Homestead Meadows may not fit the traditional notion of "homesteading." Unlike families who loaded all of their possessions on covered wagons and followed their dreams to far off lands, the distance between these homesteaders' old homes and new homesteads was often quite short. In fact, many had previously settled land near the local towns of Lyons and Longmont.

The homesteads were used mainly during the summer months. During harsh winters, ranchers moved their cattle to lower elevations and families sent their young children to schools in valley towns. Cattle ranching and timber harvesting were the main sources of income within Homestead Meadows. Based on the number of old stumps, logging occurred extensively throughout the area. Timber products included railroad ties, mine props, milled lumber, bridge planks, corral posts and poles, firewood, and Christmas trees. Farmers grew oats, hay, potatoes, and other vegetables in the meadows. Income also came from miscellaneous other activities such as leasing cabins to hunting groups, raising rabbits and selling the pelts for lining in military parkas, and marketing eggs in town.

Through the years these homesteads changed hands many times. In the 1930s the Depression forced many to sell their property. Declining cattle prices in the 1950s caused others to leave. When ranching and logging no longer provided enough income, individual homesteads were consolidated. Eventually Homestead Meadows became part of one large ranch owned by the Holnholz family. In 1978, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service paid \$1,344,000 for 2,240 acres of land, known today as Homestead Meadows, for the following purposes: (1) establishing critical winter range and migration corridor for elk; (2) providing nonmotorized dispersed recreation opportunities; (3) achieving the desired land base and ownership patterns over the long term of national forests and (4) the area's value to provide for multiple use and public benefits within the National Forest system of lands.



A local sawmill (c. 1910)



Stacking hay (c. 1905)



Cattle branding (c. 1910).

WALKER HOMESTEAD



Around the turn of the century, Sarah Walker and her family came to the United States, hoping to find a better life than the poverty they had known in England. After living in several eastern states, the family moved to the thriving Colorado quarry town of Nolan, later moving to Lyons in 1908. After a time, Sarah and her husband separated and she took up the homestead.

Sarah was the only woman to homestead here, receiving her final Certificate of Patent in 1914. A milk cow, chickens and

garden supplied most of her needs. A nearby spring provided plenty of water for her and the animals. Not having a horse, Sarah walked down Lion Gulch to Highway 36, hoping for a ride to Lyons to sell her eggs and cream. Carrying supplies, she returned home the same way.

According to those who knew her, Sarah had high standards. She was a heavy-set woman who always fixed her hair in a bun, wore long dresses, and had an apron tied around her waist. To those in the area, Sarah was known as "grandma."

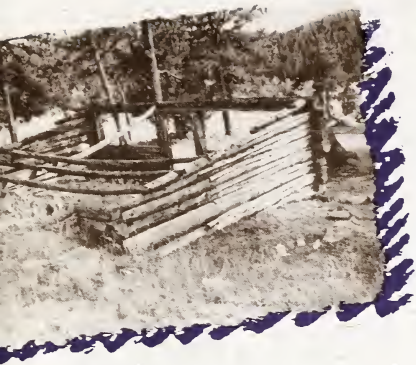
To many, Sarah embodies the spirit of the homesteader. Her strong will and working-class background prepared her for the challenges of mountain life, which often included operating outside the boundaries of what was considered "proper" women's work. For example, to acquire the lumber that she needed to build a house in Lyons, she worked in a saw mill "tailing logs," which involved handling the short end of the logs as they passed through the mill.

Try to picture her cabin from the remains of the foundation, a wood-burning stove, and three bedsprings. Her house was remembered as a rough lumber cabin with three rooms (kitchen, living room, bedroom) and a front porch. A collapsed structure to the east may have been a cellar and the site is scattered with historic artifacts.

Sarah outlived both her children, as well as her husband. Her daughter Alice died a young woman; she had severe heart trouble caused by rheumatic fever suffered as a child. Her son George was killed in an automobile accident on the North St. Vrain; he was on his way to his mother's homestead for a family holiday dinner. Mr. Walker died in a railway station; he was going to see Sarah to try to effect a reconciliation.

After more than 15 years in Homestead Meadows, Sarah returned to Lyons. Thereafter, the property changed hands many times. For a brief period in the early 1950s the cabin was used as a schoolhouse for the area's four children.

GRIFFITH HOMESTEAD



William Griffith purchased this land from the State of Colorado in 1923. Technically it is not considered a true homestead since the state set aside two sections of land in each township to be purchased for school revenue, and the Griffith property was one of these sections.

According to a local newspaper, William Griffith went out to repair fences one day. He returned in the afternoon complaining to his wife of dizziness and partial blindness. After drinking a soda, he decided to go back to work. Griffith did not return home that

evening. His body was found early the next morning (June 12, 1936) by a neighbor.

Following his sudden death, the Larimer County ownership records show that this parcel was sold at public auction to H.F. Springer in 1938. Little is known about the activities on this ranch except that during the 1940s, owner Roy Johns often experimented with growing different varieties of garden vegetables. Johns, who is best remembered for raising and marketing an improved variety of peas, lived on the ranch with his wife, Inez.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

DL. XVI Price 10 Cents ESTES PARK, COLORADO FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1936 NO. 10

GRIFFITH BURIAL RITES HELD SUNDAY AT LYONS

Funeral services for William A. (Billy) Griffith, who was found dead early Friday morning on his ranch at Elk Park, 11 miles from Estes Park on the North St. Vrain road, were conducted at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon at Lyons, where burial took place.

Mr. Griffith's body was found by a neighbor, Arthur J. Pennington, who with Ted Rowley of Lyons, a son-in-law of Mr. Griffith, and other friends and neighbors searched for him after he had failed to return to his home from the fields where he had been fixing fence.

Coroner Charles J. Day said Saturday that Mr. Griffith left his house Thursday afternoon to repair fences. He is said to have returned at about 4:30, when he

complained of dizziness and partial blindness.

He took some soda and returned to work, Mrs. Griffith told Mr. Day.

He had not returned when darkness fell. When daylight came, Lee, 12, a stepson, was sent for help.

The body was found face down on the ground about three-fourths of a mile from the house near the fence on which he had been working. No inquest was held. Mr. Day said the apparent cause of death was heart trouble, which may have been aggravated by the soda taken.

Mr. Griffith, who would have been 65 on July 1, was born in 1871. He is survived by his wife and stepsons and daughters. The family lives on a 160-acre ranch.

IRVIN HOMESTEAD



Frank Irvin received his final Certificate of Patent for 320 acres in 1917. He died a short time later, with ownership passing to his widow, Mary. Over the years, this property changed hands many times.

Early residents, especially R.J. Nettleton, were engaged in logging. Nettleton ran a sawmill and often took contracts for oversized wood products that other sawmills rejected. These immense logs were skidded to the mill by Nettleton's team of huge black Percheron horses. At times, the logs were so long and heavy that when loaded,

his truck tipped backwards! To solve this problem he built a large bin on the front of the truck and filled the bin with rocks to counterbalance the heavy loads. The remains of a sawmill are located north of the barn, at the edge of the forest.

Nettleton raised enough hay, oats, potatoes, and other vegetables to feed his family and animals. His daughter, Peg, contributed to the family income by raising rabbits in the hutches on the side of the chicken house. She sold their pelts for linings in military parkas during World War II. Peg was a student at the time and often rode horseback eight miles to high school in Estes Park.

Later owners used and leased this homestead as a hunting camp. During the 1960s many additions were made. Follow the spring near the main cabin down to the bathhouse... water flowed by gravity through an intricate heating system and into a sunken bathtub! There is also an unusual outhouse on this site with three holes. Sitting high in elevation, this homestead offered residents a spectacular view of the Mummy Range to the north and Elk Ridge to the northeast.



Bathhouse at Irvin Homestead. (c. 1985)

BROWN HOMESTEAD



This log cabin was part of the Brown Homestead. Brothers Harry and Cloyd Brown claimed adjacent 160-acre properties and received their final Certificates of Patent in 1917 and 1919. The Brown family owned this land for almost 40 years, which is longer than any original homesteader in Homestead Meadows. Although Cloyd and the rest of the Brown family moved to California, Harry stayed in the mountains he loved.

While homesteading, Harry raised registered Hereford cattle. The herd improved in quality and became increasingly in demand as breeding stock. In 1906, he registered his outstanding Herefords with the Colorado Brand Commission for a fee of \$1.50.

In 1915, Harry wed Susan Montgomery Murray. Together they built a second home on Highway 36 where daughters Imogene and Mary Jane spent most of their early childhood. One of Mary Jane's earliest memories was the endless supply of bubble gum; the sisters would pull pine gum from trees and chew it into gum.

When the girls were of school age, the family moved to Lyons for the school months and returned to the "lower" ranch (on Highway 36) each summer so Harry could work the homestead. Several tenants lived on the homestead, including timbermen Charles Davis and his son Hal; the Davises later bought the Hill Homestead to the south.

When the Depression came, cattle prices dropped alarmingly. Bulls that should have brought \$5000 each sold for less than \$500. In 1933, Harry and Susan were forced to sell their entire herd. Eventually the Browns moved permanently to Lyons where Harry worked as town clerk. Memories of the homestead remained with them always.

The next owner was rancher Al Rose. He lived here year-round from 1945 to 1949 with his wife, Ann, and two daughters. Written on the interior walls of the Brown cabin are various historical records such as annual snow depths, number of railroad ties hacked and sold, and family names. Rose's cattlebrand is also prominently displayed on these walls. Rose, who worked with area resident Turner House processing timber, is responsible for piping water into the cabin from the nearby spring. Copper tubing, which he used to transport water, can be found at the cabin site.

Author Frank Hutchinson and family owned this land from 1949 to 1953. Hutchinson's income, like most area residents, was made by selling timber products (in his case Christmas trees). This setting may have inspired Hutchinson to write *Secret of Hidden Valley*, which describes many landmarks around Homestead Meadows, as well as the famous large gray bull elk that roamed this valley. After the Hutchinsons left in 1953, the Brown ranch became part of the land holdings of Virginia Hill in 1954, Isbell in 1957, Holnholz in 1960 and public land in 1978.



"Mr. & Mrs. S.B. Trussell of Washington DC came to this lodge Oct. 15th, 1920 and left here Dec. 12th, 1920 - the happy day in the west with Browns will never be forgotten."

—Daughter Mary Jane reads this message on the wall of her father's cabin(1992).



Harry and sister, Vivian, relax on the front porch.(c. 1912)

ENGERT HOMESTEAD



A dusty wagon road winds through the forest. A one-room cabin rests peacefully in the meadow. Glance through the doorway at the stillness inside. Glass jars rest on shelves which are nearing collapse. A once comfortable armchair has scattered its stuffing.

The Engert family vacationed in this secluded meadow for many years. In 1921, Charles Engert received his final

Certificate of Patent for 320 acres of land. His wife, however, deserves much of the credit for "proving up" the land. While Charles was busy delivering mail as postmaster for Lyons, CO., Mrs. Engert traveled to the cabin by horse-drawn buggy and spent the required six months per year on the homestead by herself.

Sons-in-law, Bob House (married to daughter Nettie Engert) and Willie Billings (married to daughter Eugenia Engert), operated sawmills on the Engert Homestead as well as other properties in the area. A sawmill was apparently located in the clearing south of the house, but no evidence of it has yet been discovered. A third daughter, Legora Engert, homesteaded north of Homestead Meadows. She later married a well-known area lawman named Granny May.

In 1937, the Engerts sold the land to their grandson, William Turner House (son of Bob and Nettie House). It became part of his growing ranch and timber operation in the area.

Charles Engert (c. 1920)



-Nettie House is on the left in this picture of the two women sawing (c. 1915).

HILL HOMESTEAD



Clayton Hill filed for this homestead in 1916 and received his final Certificate of Patent in 1921. In March of that same year he sold the property to Daisy Baber, author of *Injun Summer* and *The Longest Rope*. Thereafter, landownership changed frequently, especially during the Depression years of the late 1920s and 30s.

Charles Davis lived and logged in the area for some years before purchasing the Hill Homestead in 1942. Like Davis, those who

made a living in the timber industry usually had a specialty such as bridge planks, Christmas trees, milled lumber, or firewood. Davis' timber crew specialized in "caps" for mine props. These caps were wedged between horizontal and vertical props so that the props would fit tightly and securely. Debris scattered around the home site and "skid road," where horses dragged or skidded logs to the mill, are evidence of Davis' timber-based livelihood.

Davis also leased his grazing meadows to William Turner House, who lived nearby on the Laycook Homestead. One of the daily chores of House's son, Monte, was to fetch the cows home each evening for milking. Monte finished this chore more quickly than would otherwise have been possible, since the Davises could tell him the approximate location of the herd by having listened to their tinkling cowbells throughout the day.

Deer Creek flows quietly between the main house and the cabin on the hillside. Although the stream is quite shallow, Davis arranged steppingstones and built make-shift structures for crossing the stream to avoid getting wet feet. These structures are still found along the creek. Davis and his son Hal lived on this property until the mid-1950s. In 1954 Virginia Hill added this property, as well as the majority of Homestead Meadows, to her holdings. Ownership then passed to Isbell in 1957, to Holnholz in 1960, and to the federal government in 1978.



Skidding logs to a place where they can be loaded onto a truck. (c. 1949)

LAYCOOK HOMESTEAD



Little is known about William Laycook. Although he was the first homesteader in the area (Certificate of Patent 1889), Laycook only stayed a few months.

The resident most closely associated with this homestead is William Turner House, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Engert who homesteaded farther north in Homestead Meadows. Of all the people who left their mark in this area, House had the most influence on Homestead Meadows. Not only did he live here year-round from 1933 to 1952, the longest con-

tinuous stay of any area resident, he also bought up five of the other homesteads: Engert, Boren, Walker, Laycook, and the nearby Pullen property (now adjacent National Forest land). House and his wife Lucille, along with their two children, Nona and Monte, made these meadows their home.

House was a rancher and logger. He operated a sawmill, selling firewood, mine supports, and milled lumber in Estes Park, Longmont, and Jamestown. Many of the wooden bridges in Boulder County came from his ranch. A small pile of wooden slabs is all that remains of the mill north of the barn. When House left in the 1950s, the sawdust was piled higher than the cabin, yet nature's forces have long since recycled the dust piles.

House introduced modern farm machinery, including the potato digger left on the hillside, at the Boren Homestead. House also built an earthen dam across Deer Creek, using a team of horses and a "slip" for moving dirt. In the pond hollowed out above the dam, House stocked fish for the family to enjoy. House's wife Lucille taught the only formal education ever offered in the valley, for a time in Sarah Walker's cabin, and later here.

House milked cows for family use and to sell fresh cream and homemade butter. A huge garden was kept each summer in the meadow to the south of the cabin. Each fall the abundant harvest of potatoes and other vegetables was cellared for use through the winter. Hogs and stock were raised for food, and the family supplemented their diet with wild game.

Surrounding meadows were cut for hay in the summer months. The hay was stacked for feeding cattle during the harsh winters. A Winter day's chores often included feeding the cattle from a horse-drawn sled. With heavy snows, the family could not always get out for mail and supplies. When that happened, House would saddle his horse and ride through the heavy drifts to town.

The foundation is all that remains of a residence built here by House in 1950 (see picture). It had the first indoor bathroom in the area with gravity fed hot and cold water, as well as a generating system which furnished electricity—uncommon luxuries in these mountains. The house was dismantled by the next owner, Jack Coffee, and reconstructed in the Allenspark area. The builder of this present cabin is unknown.

After several changes in landownership, Martin and Edith Holnholz purchased all of the homesteads that comprise Homestead Meadows; the 1960s brought an end to individual ranches in this area. The USDA Forest Service purchased the southern portion of the Holnholz estate, Homestead Meadows, in 1978.



BOREN HOMESTEAD



Robert Boren was the seventh of eight children, born in Texas to Israel Boren and Mary Wheat. In 1874, Robert married Julia Ann Wright and together they moved to Colorado, after spending time in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. Julia died in 1898 from complications of the birth of her ninth child, Joel. She was forty-four years old.

In 1899, Robert, a widower, moved his children to Lyons so he could homestead land in Homestead Meadows. He re-

ceived his final Certificate of Patent in 1906. Boren and his two youngest children, Mina and Joel, lived year-round in Homestead Meadows. Boren ran cattle, cut timber and hay, and sold potatoes in Lyons to make ends meet.

When in town for supplies, Boren often befriended tourists and ailing travelers; many people came to the mountains for the dry climate which helped tuberculosis and other respiratory ailments. Remembering his late wife's poor health, Boren would sometimes invite travelers to recuperate at his ranch. This prompted him to build a two-story house with six bedrooms upstairs, unusual for its size at the time.

Mina remembered the hard winters. Days were filled with wood to chop, cattle and horses to feed, and paths to shovel and re-shovel free of snow. Long, cold evenings were spent with a game of dominoes, or listening to her father play the fiddle while she played the organ. Robert and Mina planted a blue spruce at the corner of the house when she was about thirteen; the sapling had been removed from the meadow in order to plant crops. This stately tree continues to watch over the homestead.

After his children had grown and moved away, Boren continued living on the ranch alone. A fire destroyed the building in 1914 and today, hidden by tall grasses, only the foundation remains. In 1925, he sold the property to his son-in-law Roy Christner, Mina's husband. Eventually the land became part of William Turner House's estate; House lived on the nearby Laycook Homestead for many years.

*Mina, age 19, with
her son, Gilbert, born
on the homestead.
(c. 1912)*









*Mina, age 92, at
her father's cabin for
the first time in
sixty years. (c. 1985)*



"We used what we had for medicines. If someone had a cough, we'd put drops of coal oil on a teaspoon of sugar — it cut the phlegm in your throat. 'Course it just about killed you too. For a cold on the chest we mixed turpentine with pork fat and smeared it on your chest. It works. Loosens a cough." —Mina Boren, age 83, 1976.

HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

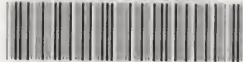
The Homestead Meadows National Historic Sites represent nearly a century of homesteading history in Colorado's Front Range. The vestiges of a once-bustling community reveal the colorful lives of hard-working homesteaders and their families. Other things to look for while exploring the sites include:

-  An old car body
-  Hidden saw mills
-  Truck body on trail
-  Old road grader
-  Signs of logging
-  "Bubble gum" trees (Warning! it tastes awful and is not good for teeth!)

We are privileged to have this outdoor museum. In time, however, nature's forces will reclaim the buildings, and gradually historic artifacts will fade from view.

Future Forest Service plans for the Homestead Meadows sites allow the natural processes of aging and decline to predominate. At this time there are no plans to stabilize or restore the cabins. All artifacts and antiquities will remain on site giving evidence of the homesteading era.

For a brief period these meadows gave way to human occupation. Now they are slowly being returned to nature. Today only a handful of these fragile structures are standing. The less they are disturbed, the longer they will remain. Please do your part to preserve this unique place.



1022324555



Al Rose and his father-in-law, traveling by horse and wagon, approaching the old Brown cabin. (c. 1946)



This guidebook was developed through a cooperative effort between the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, Estes-Poudre Ranger District and the Rocky Mountain Nature Association.

Our thanks for help and assistance to: Monte House, Al Rose, Mary Jane and D.A. Krout, Nancy George-Nichols, Jo Ireland, Bill Border, Caroline Tan, Curt Buchholtz and Nancy Wilson, Ann Green, Ginny Deal, Paula Lisowsky, Lee Ann Loupe and the Estes-Poudre Ranger District.

For additional information about the area, contact the Estes Poudre Ranger District at 1311 S. College, Ft. Collins, CO 80526, (303) 498-2770.

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